



# The VNA Voice

Edition 41 - Fall 2023 - [kansasvna.org](http://kansasvna.org)

## *From Our House to Yours: Most Don't Understand the Difference...*

...between Hospice and Palliative Care. There are often questions about these two beneficial services. Hopefully this helps you understand the difference so you or a loved one can benefit if the need arises.

|  | Hospice Care   | Both  | Palliative Care   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <b>Who</b> can receive the care service?     | People living with terminal illness not pursuing life-prolonging treatment |   | People living with serious and/or life-limiting illness   |
| <b>Who</b> provides the care service?        | Nurses Aide, Volunteers  | Doctor, Nurse, Social Worker, Chaplain                            | Current primary care provider, care coordinator, nurse practitioner   |
| <b>What</b> is provided in the care service? | End-of-life comfort and education, often in the last six months of life    | Pain and symptom management, improved quality of life             | Care while a person is receiving curative or life-prolonging medical treatment, at any stage of the illness |
| <b>Where</b> is the care service provided?   | Acute, in-patient long-term care unit                                      | Home, hospital, long-term care facility, assisted living facility | Clinic  |
| <b>When</b> is the care service provided?    | On call, 24/7  |   | Regular business hours  |
| <b>Why</b> is the care service provided?     | Support natural process of dying and family                                | Manage pain and symptoms, improve quality of life                 | Disease education, help choosing treatment options, support coping with stressors                           |
| <b>How</b> is the care service paid for?     | Medicare hospice benefit   | Medicaid<br>Private insurance                                     | Medicare Part B   |

### OUR MISSION

Improving quality of life through compassionate patient care wherever you call home.



# VISITING NURSES

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## *Volunteer Spotlight: A Tribute to Former Board Member & Friend of VNA*

This July, all of us at Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) joined with you in mourning the passing of our beloved friend, Hank Booth. Hank was a friend to all who knew him and was incredibly passionate about his beloved community. Within that community were several not-for-profit and non-profit partners that Hank supported. VNA was lucky enough to be one of those organizations which Hank held so dear.

Hank proudly served on VNA's Board of Directors from 2008-2015, and was appointed Vice President of the Board from 2013-2015. VNA's journey with Hank began long before his time on the board, though. Hank's love of VNA started when he asked VNA to provide care for his ailing father. In Hank's own words, "Well it really began with Visiting



Nurses when my father - he wanted more than anything else to stay out at the farm, and that meant that we had to hire folks to come in and care for him. The first place we went was Visiting Nurses. Visiting Nurses was there at the beginning, and I truly believe that they helped him stay alive and stay in his home

until the very end. I will say there were probably 20 maybe 25 people from Hospice and Visiting Nurses at his funeral. They all sat together. They were right there behind the family, because all of them had become family by then."

After this experience, Hank took every chance to tell others about his experiences with VNA, how they had cared for his loved ones, and how they even cared for him after he broke his neck. He proudly said how the care he received made it possible for him to go back to the radio show he so dearly loved. Hank's love of community and his love for helping others will always be remembered by all who had the pleasure to know him. Our hearts continue to go out to Hank's family, to his KLWN family, and to all who were lucky enough to be touched by his life and legacy.

## *Patient Spotlight: A Fond Farewell to an Extraordinary Patient*

Michael Douglas has never been a typical VNA patient. While VNA cares for patients of a variety ages and situations, it certainly isn't common for them to graduate high school, score in a college basketball game, make it on SportsCenter, graduate with a bachelor's degree, then a master's degree, and then get a job as an Assistant Sports Information Director, all while receiving services for 20 years for Interstitial Lung Disease.

Not only has Michael been one



Pictured above: Debbie checks Michael's vitals during an infusion in 2013.

of VNA's patients for many years, but he has also been present in VNA's media for many years. His photo has been featured on VNA's

website and social media many times. He has been featured in The VNA Voice multiple times, and he was the subject of VNA's Annual Appeal Fundraiser in 2013, which included a video and print telling of his story. Most recently, Michael was featured in the Spring 2020 Edition of The VNA Voice to discuss his graduation from Ottawa University and his special moment on the court that he described as "one of the best days of my life!"

Three years later, it was time for

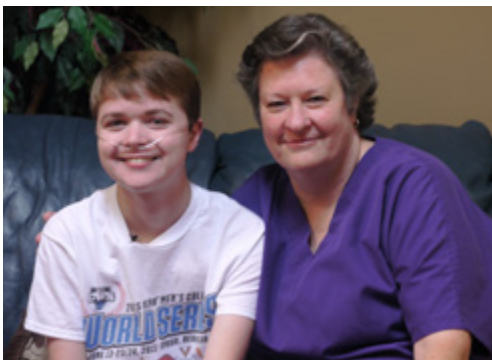


## *Patient Spotlight: A Fond Farewell to an Extraordinary Patient (cont.)*



Pictured above: (left) Michael's teammates life him on their shoulders to celebrate his basket on Mike Doug Day. Photo by Matthew S. Hicks/OttawaBravesPhotos.com. (Right) Michael poses with Debbie after the game.

another incredible moment in Michael's life that no one would have expected when he started receiving services from VNA. On April 3, 2023, Michael received his final steroid infusion from Nurse Debbie and "graduated" from Visiting Nurses' Home Health services. After so many years of treatment, Michael's condition improved enough for him to no longer need the infusions. It was a momentous occasion for Michael and his family. It was also a special occasion for Debbie, who had been placing the IV for Michael's steroid infusions for so many years. "Debbie is the best," Michael's mother, Lisa, said. "She is amazing, amazing, amazing,"



Pictured above: Debbie poses with Michael during a visit in 2015.

Michael's father, Mike, added as they reminisced about Michael's treatments and Debbie being a part of their lives for so long. It is clear just how much Michael and his family appreciate the care Debbie has provided over the years and the bond that she has formed with them, but that doesn't mean they aren't excited to be done with the treatments. "The goal is not to see you in this capacity ever again," Mike said during Debbie's final visit. "We can see you in a good capacity," Michael added.



Pictured above: Debbie checks Michael's vitals during an infusion in early 2020.

As more pictures were taken to commemorate the occasion, Debbie mentioned her bulletin board, which includes multiple pictures of Michael. "I'll have to add them to my collection," Debbie said. "People always ask me, 'how is Michael doing' and I say look up here."

Michael's family presented Debbie with a collage of photos of her and Michael over the years, to express their appreciation for her excellent care and to commemorate all of the time she has spent with them.

Lisa also sent cookies home with Debbie and members of the Marketing and Development team who were there to document the occasion.



Pictured above: Debbie checks Michael's vitals on her final visit.

After some hugs, a final picture of Debbie and Michael together, some exchanges of gratitude, and farewells, Michael's final visit from VNA was over and he "graduated" from his time in VNA's care. Although his care from VNA and Debbie has come to an end, it is clear that Michael, his family, and Debbie will continue to share a special bond that has formed over so many years of high-quality care and kindness.



Pictured above: Michael poses with Debbie during his final infusion visit.

## Staff Spotlight: Marceil Lauppe Employee of the Year - Kevin Lee

**"He has been a tremendous asset to the hospice team and our agency. He is not your typical chaplain, and I think that's what makes him exceptional. He can talk with you about your spirituality in a very non-judgmental way, or he can just sit and have a conversation about anything."**

This is just one of several glowing comments in the nominations that were submitted for Kevin Lee to be the 2023 Marceil Lauppe Employee of the Year. Another comment noted Kevin's immediate impact since joining VNA.

**"Kevin has brought lots of new ideas and enthusiasm to VNA in just over the year he has been here. He will always pitch in to help with anything that needs to be done."**

It is clear how much Kevin means to his coworkers and his patients. His kindness, humor, supportiveness, and passion for his work have helped him excel at VNA from the start.

**"He's been a resource for patients, their families, and even the VNA staff. He has been instrumental in enhancing the bereavement work at VNA."**

Congratulations to Kevin Lee on

being named the 2023 Marceil Lauppe Employee of the Year! VNA is lucky to have him and appreciates all that he does for his patients and coworkers!



Pictured above: Newly awarded Marceil Lauppe Employee of the Year, Kevin Lee (left), with coworker and presenter of his award, Mickey Dick (right), at VNA's Employee Appreciation Dinner.

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## VISITING NURSES



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